

1 REMARKS

2 Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the
3 subject application. Claims 1-76 are pending in the application.
4

5 Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

6 Claims 1-76 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by
7 Shum, et al. (U.S. Patent 6,476,805; hereafter "Shum"). The Applicant
8 respectfully traverses this rejection, and further requests that this rejection be
9 reconsidered and withdrawn.

10 In formulating the rejection, the Office states on page 2:

11
12 The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999
13 (AIPA) do not apply to the examination of this application as the application being examined
14 was not (1) filed on or after November 29, 2000, or (2) voluntarily published under 35 U.S.C.
15 122(b). Therefore, this application is examined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment
16 by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

17 Applicant notes that the subject case was indeed filed after November 29,
18 2000, and hence the changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) do apply.

19 In a telephone conversation, Examiner Rao indicated that this section was
20 inadvertently entered into the Action, and that what was warranted instead is a
21 showing that both the subject application and the Shum patent are both owned by
22 the same party. The undersigned attorney thanks Examiner Rao for this
23 clarification. Both the subject application and Shum were owned by, or subject to
24 an obligation of assignment to, the same person or organization at the time the
25 invention of the subject application was made (namely, Microsoft Corporation).

1
2 Turning to the §102 rejection, claim 1 is amended to clarify that the method
3 concerns compressing concentric mosaics by expressly reciting this feature in the
4 body of the claim (rather than the preamble). Similar clarifications are made to
5 independent claims 23 and 57.

6 Shum does not disclose this feature. Shum is directed to techniques for
7 spatial displacement estimation and multi-resolution operations on light fields. A
8 light field models the light characteristics of an object or static scene by capturing
9 light intensity and color values along a surface around a static scene. (*Shum*, col.
10 1, lines 34-36). Shum does not address compression (or decompression) of
11 concentric mosaics, and hence does not anticipate the method of claim 1.

12 The Office contends that “Shum discloses a method for compressing
13 concentric mosaic image data having a plurality of frames” at column 9, lines 50-
14 67. This excerpt describes a light field 10 shown in Figs. 1 and 2, and is
15 reproduced below.

16
17 With reference to FIGS. 1 and 2, light field 10 includes a set of
18 spatially-related light field images of an object 20. A light field
19 image comprises a two-dimensional arrangement (s,t) of data values
20 such as values from a color space (e.g., RGB, YUV, YIQ, or gray
21 scale). An (s,t) grid point is indexed with (i,j). Light rays from the
22 object 20 that pass through a light field image (s,t) also pass through
23 a point in a (u,v) plane such as a focal point 32 on a two-dimensional
24 (u,v) plane 30. A (u,v) grid point is indexed with (p,q). In FIG. 1,
25 light rays from light field image 12 pass through focal point $P_{-1, -1}$,
while light rays from light field image 14 pass through focal point
 $P_{0, 0}$. A (s,t,u,v) grid point is indexed with (i,j,p,q). While nine focal
points 32 are depicted in FIGS. 1 and 2, alternatively, the (u,v) plane
includes more or less focal points. Moreover, alternatively, an
arbitrarily shaped plane, loop, or enclosing surface includes points
for a light field model of an object or static scene.

1
2 This excerpt is silent as to compressing concentric mosaic image data.
3 Thus, claim 1 is patentable over Shum and the §102 rejection should be
4 withdrawn.

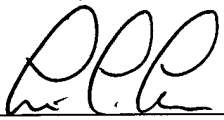
5 The remaining claims are also directed to compression and/or
6 decompression of concentric mosaics. Thus, the §102 rejection of all claims
7 should be withdrawn.

8
9 **Conclusion**

10 Claims 1-76 are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests
11 prompt allowance of the subject application. If any issue remains unresolved that
12 would prevent allowance of this case, **the Examiner is requested to contact the**
13 **undersigned attorney to resolve the issue.**

14
15
16 Date: April 4, 2005

Respectfully Submitted,

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AMENDMENT TO THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 5 is amended to correct inadvertent typographical errors. A drawing change request accompanies this response.